



**COUNTY
of SAN LUIS
OBISPO**

**Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program
Round 3: Strategic Enhancements
February, 2024**

www.slocounty.ca.gov

Background

- Request for Applications released by State in January, due in April
- Focus: Expand implementation of bridge housing to address immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions
- Short-term (less than 90 days) and mid-term housing (90 days-2 years)
- Prioritize and support access to services; reach historically underserved
- Provides funding for housing and services not covered under other funding



Background

- Prioritize Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Program* participants, when implemented (SB 1338, Umberg, 2022)
- County of SLO may apply for:
 - Up to \$5 million for operations and services
 - Up to \$2 million for purchase and renovation of existing structures
 - Can expand existing program (expand capacity), add new housing, or both
- First round allocation to County: \$7.5 million over four years (FY 23-24 through FY 26-27)



**New State program focused on people with untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders who meet specific criteria to prevent institutionalization and ensure appropriate care; referrals made to courts and participants receive a CARE plan: <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/care-act/>*



Allowable Uses of Funds

TRACK 1: Operations

- **Bridge Housing Outreach and Engagement**
- **Housing Navigation (required for all BHBH participants)**
- **Bridge Housing**
 - Shelter/interim housing
 - Emergency shelter, transitional housing, recuperative care, crisis housing, recovery housing, motel-based sheltering, and/or community re-entry and diversion housing
 - Rental assistance
 - Auxiliary funding in assisted living facilities



Allowable Uses of Funds

TRACK 2: Start-Up Infrastructure (requires concurrent Track 1 application)

- **Max of \$75,000 per bed**
- **All start-up infrastructure funded activities must be complete and beds available within 1 year of contract execution**
- **State encourages innovative models:**
 - Hotels/motels
 - Modular buildings
 - Tiny homes
 - Master-leased units or buildings
 - Scattered sites



Behavioral Health Continuum of Care

Focus of Bridge
Housing program



Prevention and
Wellness

Community
Services

Intensive
Outpatient Services

Crisis Services

Intensive
Residential
Services

Coordinate services across continuum for
Bridge Housing participants



Implementation Options



- **Expand existing Bridge Housing program**
 - Rental assistance
 - Licensed housing facility (transitional housing) with 24/7 supervision
- **Work with other housing/service providers to expand other programs**
- **Create new Bridge Housing**

Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis San Luis Obispo County (Capstone, 2023)

- Certain elements of a comprehensive continuum do not exist such as crisis residential housing
- Other elements of the continuum exist but capacity is insufficient:
 - *Adult residential facilities (board and care), sober living programs, higher levels of care in programs for substance use disorders (e.g. residential)*
- Recommends investing in crisis residential treatment programs, licensed adult residential treatment programs, collaborating with sober living homes to expand substance use disorder services in outpatient programs; augment services



County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Strategic Plan (2024)

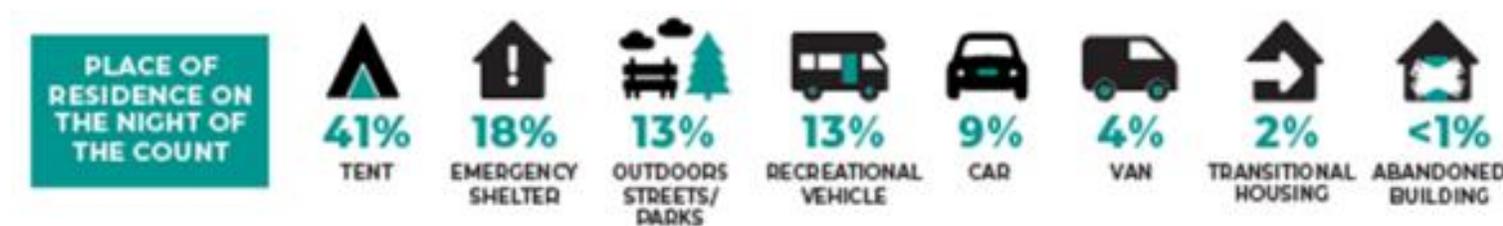
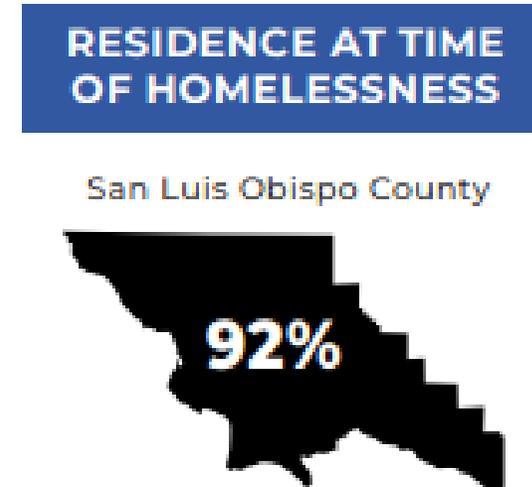
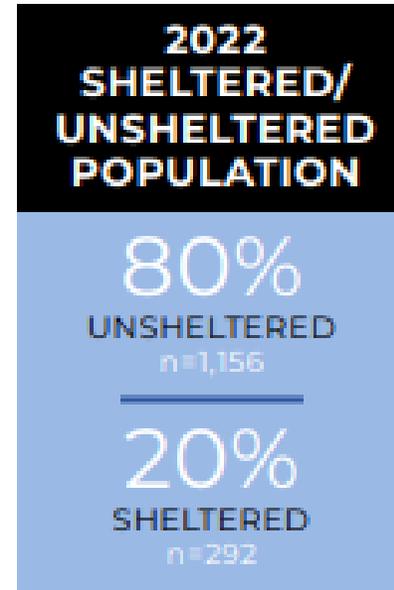
- Investigate development of Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder residential treatment facilities for youth (13-18) and women
- Identify and collaborate with partners to increase adult access to longer term sober living program and board and care compatible with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
- Continue to expand access to affordable community housing for Behavioral Health clients transitioning from residential treatment, especially individuals living with SMI
- Continue to collaborate with Law Enforcement, Probation, and Wellpath to ease transition of incarcerated individuals to stepdown models of transitional care with wraparound supports & housing



Local Data: Homelessness in SLO County

2022 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

- 1,448 individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night
 - Capacity to shelter 20-30%
- Top health conditions survey respondents reported:
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (46%)
 - Psychiatric or emotional condition (43%)
 - Drug or Alcohol Abuse (35%)
 - Chronic health problems (31%)
- 282 individuals counted as chronically homeless



Local Plan: San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness 2022-2027

Line of Effort 1:

Create affordable and appropriately designed housing opportunities and shelter options for underserved populations. *(Goal: Create 300 units within 3 years).*

- **Initial Focus:**
 - People with behavioral health conditions, chronically homeless, older adults/medically vulnerable.
 - Master leasing, non-traditional housing/shelter.

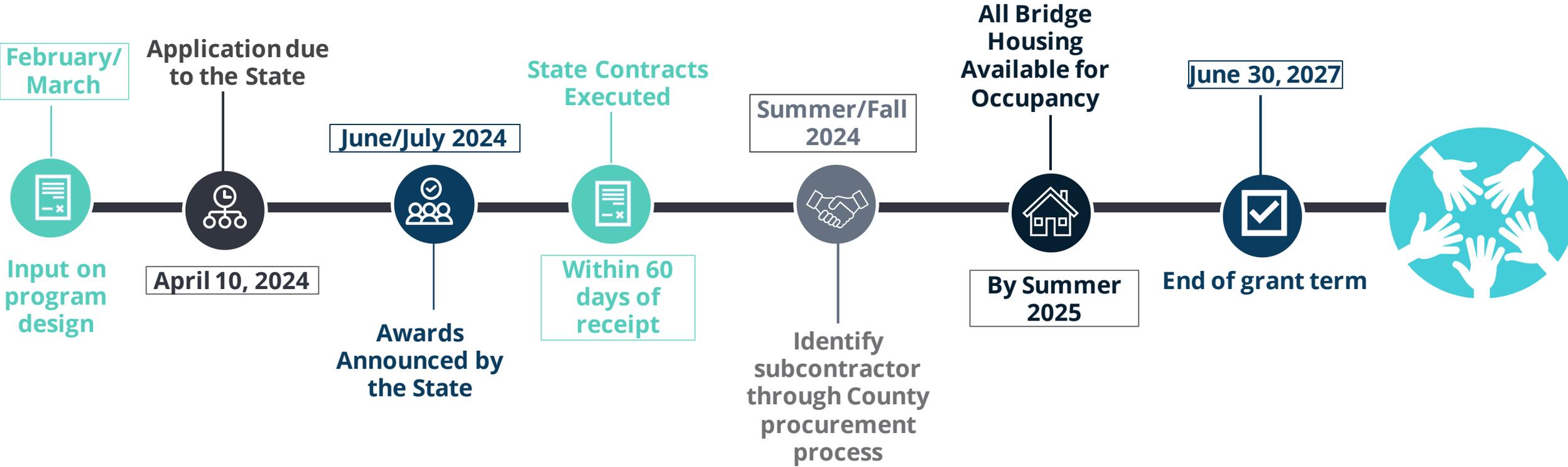
Line of Effort 2:

Housing stability for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including expanding prevention/diversion, supportive services, and housing navigation efforts.

- **Initial Focus:**
 - Services to support new interim housing.



Timeline



*Milestone dates may change



Input

- **Request feedback on:**
 - Most urgent housing needs for Bridge Housing eligible participants
 - Population focuses (if any)
 - Other recommendations on program design
- **Advisor meetings or its subcommittees**
 - Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC)
 - County Behavioral Health Board
 - Mental Health Services Act Advisory Body (MAC)
 - Other (e.g. County staff, housing and service providers)
 - *Housing and service providers*
 - *County departments (e.g. Social Services, Probation, Sheriff)*
 - *Individuals with lived experience*



Input

- **What are the most urgent housing needs for Bridge Housing participants?**
 - Emergency Shelter (non-congregate)
 - Motel-based Sheltering (e.g. 30 days while waiting for other housing)
 - Crisis Housing
 - Transitional Housing
 - Recovery Housing
 - Recuperative Care Models
 - Community Re-Entry and Diversion Housing
 - **Rental Assistance (current Bridge Housing funded beds)**
 - Auxiliary Funding in Assisted Living Settings (e.g. licensed Adult Residential Facilities)
 - **Other licensed transitional housing settings (current Bridge Housing funded beds)**



Input

- **Population focuses (if any)**

- Individuals at risk of being in or exiting the criminal justice system
- Children and youth involved with either the juvenile justice or child welfare system
- Individuals with a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder (SUD)
- Do not focus on one population, serve all eligible populations as beds and services are available

- **Other recommendations on program design**

- Expand existing Bridge Housing program
- Partner on existing project in the pipeline
- Expand existing programs
- Create new Behavioral Health Bridge Housing beds



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